

INFORMATION

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Noted by HAK

SECRET

August 2, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER
FROM: HAROLD H. SAUNDERS
SUBJECT: Israel's Request for Submarine Components

The attached is to inform you that Secretary Laird has approved Israel's request for a number of submarine components and a quantity of special steel to be used by the British Vickers firm in construction of three small submarines for Israel's coastal use.

This is for your information only. Action has been completed
in a way consistent with the President's policy to support Israeli defense as much as possible.

OSD REVIEWED 08-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

SECRET

HHSaunders:lnp;8/2/72

SECRETTHE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

26 JUL 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Israel's Request for Submarine Components

After careful review, I have decided to approve Israel's request for a number of submarine components and a quantity of special steel to be used by the British Vickers firm in construction of three small submarines for Israel.

This represents the first time the U.S. has assisted in providing submarines to either side in the Middle East, but the review conducted by my Middle East Task Group indicates that Israel has a legitimate need for this kind of small coastal submarine. We do not believe the acquisition of three of these submarines will significantly affect the arms balance in the area, and indeed, these submarines will in all probability, be used to replace Israel's present three World War II vintage boats. In fact, Vickers can build the submarines without U.S. assistance, using non-U.S. sources for torpedoes, periscopes, and the other items in question. Substitutes, possibly inferior in some instances, are available for all these items from other foreign sources.

We do not anticipate any adverse publicity from this sale, since any blame already has been attached to the U.K. by the Arab press, and in any event the U.S. contribution is relatively minor in terms of the overall size of the transaction.

**SECRET**

DASD/ISA/NESA

Classified by _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, UPON REVIEW DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS.

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No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-179-3-19-0